

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 13-16. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 13-16.

Claims 13-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Dworkin (U.S. Patent No. 4,992,940). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now recited in claims 13-16 are not taught or suggested by Dworkin whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to claims 13-16 so as to clarify the feature inherently described in the claims that the method and system are directed to an electronic business transaction system having a plurality of member sites, a center site and a network to connect the member sites and the center site to each other, wherein each of the member sites is capable of either selling or purchasing products and/or services and that the center site serves to store information of open businesses issued by the member sites in an open business information database and to transmit communications between member sites who may desire to become business partners based upon the open business information. These features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Dworkin whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record.

Dworkin teaches a system and method for assisting a user in locating and purchasing goods or services sold by a plurality of vendors. The system taught by

Dworkin as illustrated in Fig. 1 includes a central computer (CPU) 1 which is connected to a database 3, a terminal 5 and a printer 7. Dworkin teaches that the database contains information of different products and/or services being offered by a plurality of vendors represented by blocks 9a-d each being electronically connected to the CPU 1 by connectors 8a-d respectively. In operating the system taught by Dworkin, a user first indicates via the terminal 5 the general type of product or service desired, the system responds by displaying a template having preset specifications for the type of product or service selected and the user fills in the blanks of the template to indicate the minimum desired specifications for the product or service desired. The CPU 1 then searches the database 3 to retrieve products or services having the specifications required by the user. The user can then select one or more items for immediate purchase which then causes the system to automatically transmit the order to the appropriate vendor 9.

Thus, in Dworkin the user using the terminal 5 in association with the CPU 1 as a site is always in a purchasing mode whereas the vendor sites 9a-d are each always in a selling mode. According to the present invention, each member site can either be a purchaser or a seller of goods and services thereby allowing complete flexibility in the system. Such features are clearly not taught or suggested by Dworkin.

Thus, Dworkin fails to teach or suggest storing, in an open business information database included in a center site, information of open businesses issued by a plurality of member sites to find business partners, said information of open businesses describes products and/or services desired to be purchase or being

offered for purchase by said member sites, thereby permitting said member sites to be either a seller or purchaser of products and/or services as recited in the claims.

Further, as taught by Dworkin, the database 3 only stores information of products and/or services being offered for sale by the vendors 9a-d. At no point is there any teaching or suggestion in Dworkin that the database 3 includes both information concerning products and/or services being offered for sale by member sites but also information of products and/or services desired to be purchased by the member sites. This feature of the present invention allows for the member sites to be either a purchaser or a seller of goods and services contrary to that taught by Dworkin wherein the terminal 5 in conjunction with the CPU 1 are always purchasers and the vendors 9a-d are always sellers of goods and services. Thus, the database 3 which is searched by the terminal 5 and the CPU 1 when goods and services are desired by a user need only have stored therein information concerning goods and services which are available to be purchased.

Thus, Dworkin fails to teach or suggest storing in an open business information database included in the member site, information of open businesses issued by a plurality of sites to find business partners, said information of open businesses describes products and/or services desired to be purchased or being offered for purchase by the member sites as recited in the claims.

Based on the above, it is quite clear that Dworkin is deficient of numerous features of the present invention as recited in the claims. Within the four corners of Dworkin, Applicants fail to find any disclosure which could anticipate the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims.

Therefore, the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Dworkin whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(b) rejection of claims 13-16 as being anticipated by Dworkin is respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the reference utilized in the rejection of claims 13-16.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 13-16 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 13-16 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.36167CX1).

Respectfully submitted,

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